

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 10-24, and 26-32 will be pending in this application. Claims 2, 9, and 25 have been canceled herein. Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein. Claims 26-32 have been added. Claims 11-24 were withdrawn. Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, and 26-32 stand ready for further action on the merits.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 7 can be found in claim 2 as originally filed and in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0028], [0067], [0069], and [0071]. Support for claims 26-28 and 30 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0071] and [0072]. Support for claim 29 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0054] and [0071]. Support for claim 31 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0053] and [0071]. Support for claim 32 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraph [0120] and Figure 3. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shigemori et al. Claims 2-4, 6, and 9 have been cancelled, which renders the rejection as to these claims moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shigemori et al. do not disclose each and every limitation of independent claim 1. Therefore, Shigemori et al. do not anticipate or render obvious claim 1.

Shigemori et al. fail to disclose or suggest a specific combination of polymers constituting a core and a shell of a core/shell particle in relation to differences in hydrophilicity of the polymers.

Shigemori et al. disclose a core layer comprising a substance having a lower melting point covered by a substance having a higher melting point. That is, Shigemori et al. combine substances of the core and shell in a specific order of the melting point. As apparent from such a description of Shigemori et al., Shigemori et al. fail to disclose combining the core and shell

materials homogeneously based on differences in hydrophilicity thereof. Further, Shigemori et al. disclose a particle comprising a core comprising a styrene-butyl acrylate copolymer, a parting agent and the like, and a shell comprising a polymethyl methacrylate in the Examples.

However, such a combination is clearly distinct from the specific combination of polymers of the core and shell of the present invention. Although Shigemori et al. disclose many kinds of base resins of particles, there is no teaching about the relationship between the kinds of the resins and the core/shell structure. As described above, Shigemori et al. have no disclosure regarding the hydrophilicity of the core and shell materials. Thus, the specific combination of the present invention would never be predicted from Shigemori et al.

The present invention also shows unexpected results. That is, since Shigemori et al. only combine a core comprising a styrene-butyl acrylate copolymer and a parting agent, and a shell comprising a polymethyl methacrylate concretely, technical meanings of hydrophilicity in relation to the core and shell of polymer particles would never be motivated from Shigemori et al.

Contrarily, according to the present invention, the specific polymers are combined as the core and shell of the particles in relation to differences in hydrophilicity of the polymers. The core/shell particles in which the characteristics of the shell material is efficiently imparted with the characteristics of the core material can be effectively provided by a simple and convenient manner utilizing the differences in hydrophilicity in the core and shell materials. Such a result would never be predicted from Shigemori et al.

In view of the above, it is believed that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Shigemori et al. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion


Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr. (Reg. No. 28,977) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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